

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In The Claims:

Claims 1–10 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3–4, 8–10 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 2 and 5–7 have been amended.

Claims 11–52 have been added.

Claims 2, 5–7, and 11–52 remain in the application.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue in one or more future applications any of the subject matter canceled herein.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 8, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b):

Claims 1, 3, 8, and 9 have been canceled.

Rejection of Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §112:

According to the Office Action, the original claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §112. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim 2 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter and limitations, and to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection(s), of the original claim 4. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner pass the amended claim 2 to allowance.

Rejection of Claims 5–7 under 35 U.S.C. §112:

According to the Office Action, the original claims 5–7 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §112. Applicants further appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 5–7 have been amended to depend from the amended claim 2, to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection(s) and/or to correct informalities. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner pass the amended claims 5–7 to allowance.

Objection to Claim 10:

Claim 10 has been canceled.

Claims 11–52 Have Been Added:

Applicants add new claims 11–52. Claims 11–22 all depend from claim 2, which, as stated above, is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 4. These new claims recite further features of the invention and include all the limitations of the amended claim 2. No new matter has been added, and allowance is respectfully requested. New claim 23 recites in alternate form, and with more particularity, the subject matter of the invention. Claims 24–40 depend from, and include all the limitations of, claim 23. No new matter has been added and allowance is respectfully requested. Claim 41 recites with more particularity the subject matter of the invention and no new matter has been added. Claims 42–52 depend from, and include all the limitations of, claim 41. Allowance is respectfully requested.

More particularly, support for claims 11–13 can be found, for example, on p. 16, lines 20–24 of the specification as filed. Support for claim 14 can be found, for example, on p. 7, line 21 of the specification as filed. Support for claim 15 can be found, for example, on p. 5, line 20 of the specification as filed. Support for claim 16 can be found, for example, on p. 16, lines 4, 8, and 23 of the specification as filed, in the description of Fig. 29. Support for claims 17, 18, and 20 can be found in the specification as filed, in reference to Fig. 20A, for instance, on p. 8, lines 20–24. Support for claim 19 can be found, for example, in reference to Figs. 2, 20A, and 23A of the specification as filed. Support for claim 21 can be found, for example, on p. 10, lines 2–3 and on p. 18, lines 4–19 of the specification as filed. Support for claim 22 can be found, for example, on p. 9, lines 26–29 of the specification as filed, in reference to Fig. 13.

Support for claim 23 can be found, for example, in the specification as filed, in reference to Figs. 2, 13, and 20A. Support for claim 26 can be found, for example, in the specification as filed, p. 13, lines 23–24 and/or in reference to Figs. 4-4B among others. Support for claim 36 can be found, for example, in the specification as filed, in reference to Figs. 11, p. 8, line 22, and also Fig. 13. Support for the remaining dependent claims 24–25, 27-35, and 37-40 can be found in the specification as filed in locations comparable to those corresponding to dependent claims 5–7, and 11–22.

Support for claims 41–52 can be found, for example, in reference to Figs. 22A and 22B, including from p. 14, line 14 to p. 15, line 7 of the specification as filed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that claims 2, 5–7, and 11–52 are in condition for allowance, and requests that the Examiner pass this application to allowance.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted by,



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NOTE: It is believed that fees due in connection with this submission have been appropriately provided for. However, if an additional fee amount is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. CTPH-P02-005, from which the undersigned is authorized to withdraw.